



PUBLISHED DAILY & TRI-WEEKLY BY  
EDGAR SNOWDEN.  
SATURDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 5.

The annual report of the Superintendent of Public Instruction for the year 1880 has been received. It shows a very favorable and satisfactory condition of the public schools of the State, and completely refutes the assertions of many republican speakers and orators respecting the alleged half hearted and compulsory support given to the free school system by the people of the South. Mr. Ruffin commences his report by saying:

"The year which closed July 1st was our best year in all respects. The number of schools was more than doubled; the school attendance was more than doubled what it was last year, and about 15,000 larger than in any preceding year. An increased amount of State school money was turned over. And whilst, of course, there was a larger outlay for teachers and school house expenses, there was almost no increase in the cost of administration, and there was a decided reduction in the cost of education per pupil. There was a slight falling off in the regularity of attendance, and a slight increase in the length of the school term. Over 20 new school houses were built during the year, and nearly \$200,000 added to the value of school property. There is reason to believe also that there was better teaching last year than ever before, and that certainly we never had such exhibitions of industry in teachers' institutes and other means of professional improvement. School officers generally performed their duties faithfully, and a cheerful, harmonious spirit prevailed universally."

He concludes it by narrating the evil effects that must necessarily result to the schools from connecting them in any manner, shape or form with the settlement of the State debt, and by urging all who have any interest in preserving the efficiency of the free school system, and in exerting from it its maximum amount of good, to use their utmost efforts to prevent such a connection and to keep the schools out of and away from the contaminating influence of politics.

The Richmond Whig says, "It is understood that Senator Johnston is much mortified at the somewhat contemptuous reception his alleged reply to General Mahone has met with from his own faction in Virginia." It also says that the recent decision of the Supreme Court in the Virginia bond case, "did not embrace any essential point in the controversy as to the re-adjustment of the State debt." The Whig was never more mistaken in its life. Many of the newspapers of the State have published the reply in full, all of them, except the few concocted by Mahonites, spoke of it in the most favorable terms, and the bushes of complimentary letters its author received from prominent men in all quarters of the State, show that in any man ever had cause to be satisfied with his own work, that man is Senator Johnston, and his work in reply to Gen. Mahone's manifesto. With regard to the decision of the Supreme Court, the Whig is, if possible, even more in error, as it will see if over a case involving the legality of any proposed forcible re-adjustment of the State debt comes before that court. Everybody else but the impracticable Mahonites who has read the decision referred to, is now convinced that forcible re-adjustment cannot be accomplished, and what will be less accessible to the Whig, some of the most distinguished jurists now in Washington, who have read the decision, coincide in the opinion held in this State, that it sweeps away the last rock of the foundation upon which the Mahonites' platform rested.

The Richmond Dispatch says Judge Hughes is "a stalwart debt payer, but is opposed to making sympathy with Mahone a ground for turning one republican out of office and putting in an anti-sympathizer." Sympathy with Mahone now, of course, means sympathy with the Mahone movement, and as the sole professed living spirit of that movement is a desire to re-adjust the State debt by forcible means, the incompatibility of sympathy with Mahone and of sympathy with the debt payers becomes apparent at once. Personal friendship for a man is vastly different from sympathy with any cause he may espouse, and Judge Hughes' course with regard to the Mahonites is one of the strange incidents of current times.

We have received from David Landreth, Philadelphia, a package of his celebrated garden seeds. These seeds, through Mr. L.'s long years of experience and care, stand first in the markets of this country.

**FOREIGN NEWS.**  
The Ashantee King threatens war again.  
Gen. Schofield states that Tekke departs are offering assistance.

France has renewed its proposal for an international conference on the silver question.

It is said in Berlin that a future Russian loan will be placed on the American market.

The Peruvians have been victorious in two battles with the Chilians since the fall of Lima.

Bismarck's customs policy was under discussion in the Prussian Reichstag yesterday. Two chancellors defended his course and binned at a government monopoly in tobacco.

The British House of Commons yesterday resumed the consideration of the Irish coercion bill. The home rulers were all in their seats but kept quiet. Mr. Michael Davitt was arraigned at Bow Street Court, London, for violating his ticket of leave, and committed. It is officially announced that he has been ordered to finish his term of penal servitude. He had between four and five years to serve when released in 1877. A number of other arrests are expected directly after the coercion bill is passed. Forts are being erected along the Galway coast. At the land league meeting in Ireland yesterday, Mr. Dillon counseled the people to remain quiet. All the troops in London are confined to their barracks. Meetings to denounce the government will be held in many places in Ireland to-morrow, but there is generally an absence of excitement. A lady was shot at near Galway Thursday, but without result.

In the House of Representatives yesterday, Mr. Goodie said he had received a letter from the widow of Capt. Hugh N. Pace, instructing him peremptorily to withdraw the bill for her relief, which caused the Mr. Goodie's discussion last week, and on motion of Mr. G. the bill was laid on the table, though Mr. Conger wished it referred to the Naval Committee.

## NEWS OF THE DAY.

"If Candelmas be fair and clear,  
There'll be two winters in the year."

Which it was.  
Mr. Robert A. Fisher, president of the Board of Trade, and one of the leading merchants and most public spirited citizens of Baltimore, died suddenly yesterday of heart disease.

A number of meetings in sympathy with the Land League were held yesterday, and resolutions passed urging the League to stand to the position they have taken, and fight it out to the bitter end.

The United States mail coach between Alexandria and Opelousas, La., was stopped by highwaymen Thursday night, and the driver fired at and halted and compelled to deliver the mail bags.

The worst snow storm known for five years prevailed through the Northwestern States yesterday. Its features were extreme velocity of wind, heavy snow and bitter cold. Travel was suspended on a number of roads.

Gertrude Thornton, a girl six years old died at Middletown, N. Y., yesterday from blood poisoning. She had worn a pair of stockings while coating and absorbed poison from the coloring matter used in producing a resemblance of old gold.

Mr. St. George expresses the opinion that the California mountain trout is the coming game fish of the East. He says they are very hardy, grow rapidly, are the gamiest fish ever saw, and will test the skill of the most experienced angler to bring them to land.

In the Senate yesterday, Mr. Morgan's resolution, denying the right of the President of the Senate to count the electoral vote, was passed, after being amended so as to read, "and that it is the duty of Congress, without delay to institute a measure to secure the due and orderly performance of said duty in future."

Rondout, N. Y., experienced one of those puzzling shocks resembling an earthquake yesterday. As they have been felt in New York State and elsewhere recently at several points along the line of streams of water they are believed by some to have been caused by the action of the frost on the earth and the cracking of the ice in the water.

The special committee of the New York Chamber of Commerce having in charge the project of a statue of George Washington, on the steps of the treasury building, have recommended that the work be given to J. Q. A. Ward, the sculptor. The statue is to be in bronze, and in all respect a complete embodiment of the exalted character of Washington.

Dr. A. B. Elliot, editor of the Louisville (N. Y.) Gazette, returning from Mentor yesterday, told an interviewer that Gen. Garfield gave him to understand that Senator Bailew would be Secretary of State, that Gov. Foster should have what he might want, that the Ohio would be represented in the Cabinet, Indiana would get nothing, and New York would get the Secretaryship of the Treasury, and also that Senator Cullum would not antagonize General Garfield.

## VIRGINIA NEWS.

O. Thursday night an attempt was made to murder Civil Engineer P. C. Asserson at the Norfolk Navy Yard. Some miscreant fired a charge of buckshot at him through the parlor window from the enemy's back of the yard. Furniture and glass were damaged to a considerable extent, but Mr. Asserson was unhurt.

A Norfolk dispatch says: The ice in the bay is reported as very heavy, and extends down 150 miles from Baltimore. To-day indicated the coldest of the season here. Ice is forming in every direction, and the Southern and Eastern branches are frozen across. The Portsmouth and Berkeley flats are covered, and below the hospital the floating ice is packed entirely across the stream.

The Richmond State is authorized to state that Judge Hughes is not preparing an elaborate letter on the debt question, or advising his republicans to vote the re-adjuster ticket. Judge Hughes will make a statement in some form showing that he is, as ever, a stalwart debt payer of the school of the thirty years, but is opposed to making "sympathy with Mahone" a ground for turning one republican out of office and putting in an anti-sympathizer.

## The Romantic Runaway.

A story, analogous in part to that of Lord Ulster's daughter, though with happily a more satisfactory termination, comes from Mayville, Ky. Mayville is on the Ohio river, and just opposite in Ohio is the little town of Aberdeen, a favorite resort for runaway couples from the other State. By some peculiarity of the law, the ties of the peace there have authority to marry couples as easily, whose parents live outside the State, whether the applicants are of age or not. The place has become a noted resort for runaways from the sacred soil, and the little ferryboat that takes back and forth to carry the fugitives bears the name of Oretia Green.

Just now, however, the boat is laid up on account of the heavy ice running in the river. For several days past crossing by any means has been considered not only unsafe but entirely impracticable. From the mountain country to the east and south of Mayville, a number of couples have come in to be ferried over, but finding it impossible have remained waiting for the ice to pass.

Recently, however, came a couple whose case was unusual. They had left their mountain home the previous night on horseback, and had reached their way, closely pursued by the father of the bride, to the crossing. They arrived at Mayville at about 3 o'clock in the afternoon, their horses having been killed with sweat. The would-be bride, Miss Annie M. Stumper, aged 16, is a very pretty blonde and a fair type of mountain beauty. Her whom she desired to love, honor and obey, Mr. Leander P. Sorger, aged 15, is a brazen fellow six feet three in his socks.

When the back of the river was gained and they found themselves halted by the crushing ice flood, they were in dismay, and the girl burst into tears. A sympathetic crowd collected, and two hardy fellows volunteered to attempt the passage of the river in a skiff. It was a very easy undertaking; but the bride dried her eyes and the bridegroom helped to launch the boat. The crowd observed, and all wished the pair goodspeed and safety.

When the craft was about midway of the river the father appeared, and shouted for the girl to come back. The crowd yelled derisively, and the men in the boat fought their way through the ice with renewed zeal. The father was in a rage, but no one sympathized with him. The boat safely reached the other shore. When just about to step off on the Aberdeen side the father stood up and waved his hat triumphantly. This act was as unfortunate for him as his balance and tumbled into the river. The bride screamed and the crowd flew to help her. The father was rescued, and the men in the boat fought their way through the ice with renewed zeal.

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## Writing for the Press.

Causar knows that he will deserve and win the thanks of all managing editors if he can but impress these few simple rules upon the minds of those who write for the press:

I. Write upon one side of the sheet only. Why? Because it is often necessary to cut the pages into "takes" for the compositor, and this cannot be done when both sides are written upon.

II. Write clearly and distinctly, being particularly careful in the matter of proper names, and words from foreign languages. Why? Because you have no right to ask either editor or compositor to waste his time puzzling over the results of your selfishness.

III. Don't write in a microscopic hand. Why? Because the compositor has to read it across his case, at a distance of nearly two feet; also, because the editor often wants to make additions and other changes.

IV. Don't begin at the very top of the first page. Why? Because if you have written a head for your article, the editor will probably want to change it; and if you have not, which is the better way, to write your own. Besides, the waste room in which to write his instructions to the printer as to the type to be used, where and when the proof is to be sent, etc.

V. Never roll your manuscript. Why? Because it maddens and exasperates every one who touches it—editor, compositor and proof reader.

VI. Be brief. Why? Because people don't read long stories. The number of readers which any article has is inversely proportional to the square of its length. This is a half-clam article is read by four times as many people as one double that length.

VII. Have the fear of the waste barrel constantly and steadily before your eyes. Why? Because it will save you a vast amount of useless labor, to say nothing of paper and postage.

VIII. Always write your full name and address plainly at the end of your letter. Why? Because it will often happen that the editor will want to communicate with you, and because he needs to know the writer's name as a guarantee of good faith. If you use a pseudonym or initials, write your own name and address below it; it will never be divulged.

IX. "These precepts are in my memory kept," and for fear you might forget to keep them up and put them where you can readily run through them when tempted to spill innocent ink.

Causar's word for it, those who heed these rules will be beloved and favored in every editorial caucus.—Boston Transcript Courier.

**HOW AN ELEPHANT WAS PACKED.**—An immense Japanese elephant, consigned to Mr. Adam Forepaugh, the circus manager, has just arrived in Philadelphia, after a most curious experience. The beast had a pleasant voyage over the Pacific, but about the time it was placed in the train to be shipped east from San Francisco the mercury took a tumble away down below zero in the Rocky Mountains, and it became necessary to protect the monster from the excessive cold. The Central Pacific Railroad Company refused to allow a stove to be placed in the car with the beast, and as heat was absolutely necessary to the life of the monster, Captain Bullett, who was traveling with the elephant, set his wits to work to devise a plan of generating heat without fire. He soon hit upon a practical plan. The elephant was thrown into the box car, and a stable compost was laid down in the car. It was piled high around the sides of the car, and a fire was kindled around the elephant, until only the head and back of the beast were visible. Unnecessary croakings in the cars were stopped up, and the journey was begun. As the temperature lowered a few pails of water were thrown upon the compost, and the warm vapor from the fermenting heap filled the car. In this way the monster from the tropics invaded the home of the blizzard, and travelled in his pathway from Cheyenne to this city, where he arrived without a chill or a damaged lung.—Phil. Record.

## POWERFUL MEN NOT ALWAYS PUBLIC MEN.

"A foreign newspaper always interests our friend," said the Baron, taking his coffee. "Well, it must always be interesting to have news from home, I suppose," said Edmundo. "Home!" said the Baron. "News is always interesting, whether it comes from home or not." "To public men," said Edmundo, sipping his coffee. "To all men if they be wise," said the Baron. "As a general rule, the most successful man in life is the man who has the best information." "But what a rare thing is success in life," said Edmundo. "I often wonder whether I shall ever be able to step out of the crowd." "You may have success in life without stepping out of the crowd," said the Baron. "A rare success," said Edmundo. "I know what you mean. But what I mean is real success in life. I mean, I should like to be a public man." "Why?" asked the Baron. "Well, I should like to have power," said Edmundo, bustling. "The most powerful man is not a public man," said the Baron. 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